

Jul 18 05 02:51p

SVIPG

408 971 4660

RECEIVED^{B-1}
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JUL 18 2005

ZILKA-KOTAB

PC
ZILKA, KOTAB & FERCETM

95 SOUTH MARKET ST., SUITE 420
SAN JOSE, CA 95113

TELEPHONE (408) 971-2573
FAX (408) 971-4660

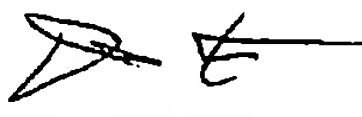
FAX COVER SHEET

Date: July 18, 2005	Phone Number	Fax Number
To: Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences, USPTO		(703)872-9306
From: Dominic M. Kotab		

Docket No.: IBM1P040/SJO9-2003-0032US1

App. No: 10/662,111

Total Number of Pages Being Transmitted, Including Cover Sheet: 27

<p>Message:</p> <p>Please deliver to the Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p></p> <p>Dominic M. Kotab</p>
--

☐ Original to follow Via Regular Mail ☒ Original will Not be Sent ☐ Original will follow Via Overnight Courier

The information contained in this facsimile message is attorney privileged and confidential information intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copy of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by telephone (if long distance, please call collect) and return the original message to us at the above address via the U.S. Postal Service. Thank you.

IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES OR IF YOU ENCOUNTER
ANY OTHER DIFFICULTY, PLEASE PHONE Erica
AT (408) 971-2573 AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE

July 18, 2005

RECEIVED
OIPE/AP
JUL 19 2005

Practitioner's Docket No. IBM1P040/SJ0920030032US1

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Leif Stefan Kirschenbaum

Application No.: 10/662,111

Group No.: 2831

Filed: 09/12/2003

Examiner: Nguyen, C.

For: METHOD FOR TESTING INTEGRITY OF ELECTRICAL CONNECTION OF A FLAT CABLE
MULTIPLE CONNECTOR ASSEMBLYMail Stop Appeal Briefs - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF
(PATENT APPLICATION--37 C.F.R. § 41.37)

1. Transmitted herewith is the APPEAL BRIEF in this application, with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on May 18, 2005.
2. STATUS OF APPLICANT

This application is on behalf of other than a small entity.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10*

*(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;
Express Mail certification is optional.)*

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

MAILING

_ deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

_ with sufficient postage as first class mail.

37 C.F.R. § 1.10*

_ as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"

Mailing Label No. _____ (mandatory)

TRANSMISSION

_ facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, (703) 872-9306.

Date:

7/18/2005

Signature



Erica L. Farlow

(type or print name of person certifying)

* Only the date of filing (' 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under ' 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See ' 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (' 1.10) or facsimile transmission (' 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

Transmittal of Appeal Brief--page 1 of 2

RECEIVED 08 971 4660
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JUL 18 2005

3. FEE FOR FILING APPEAL BRIEF

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b)(2), the fee for filing the Appeal Brief is:

other than a small entity	\$500.00
Appeal Brief fee due	\$500.00

4. EXTENSION OF TERM

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R.1.136 apply.

Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

5. TOTAL FEE DUE

The total fee due is:

Appeal brief fee	\$500.00
Extension fee (if any)	\$0.00
TOTAL FEE DUE	\$500.00

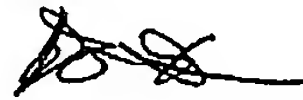
6. FEE PAYMENT

Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$500.00 to Deposit Account No. 09-0466 (Order No. SJ0920030032US1).

A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

7. FEE DEFICIENCY

If any additional extension and/or fee is required, and if any additional fee for claims is required, charge Deposit Account No. 09-0466 (Order No. SJ0920030032US1).



Reg. No.: 42,762
Tel. No.: 408-971-2573
Customer No.: 50548

Signature of Practitioner
Dominic M. Kotab
Zilka-Kotab, PC
P.O. Box 721120
San Jose, CA 95172-1120
USA

Transmittal of Appeal Brief--page 2 of 2

JUL 18 2005

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of)	
)	
Leif KIRSCHENBAUM)	Group Art Unit: 2831
)	
Application No. 10/662,111)	Examiner: NGUYEN, Chau N.
)	
Filed: 09/12/2003)	Attorney Docket No.
)	IBM1P040/SJO9-2003-0032US1
For: METHOD FOR TESTING)	
INTEGRITY OF ELECTRICAL)	
CONNECTION OF A FLAT CABLE))	Date: July 18, 2005
MULTIPLE CONNECTOR)	
ASSEMBLY)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

ATTENTION: Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences**APPEAL BRIEF (37 C.F.R. § 41.37)**

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on May 18, 2005.

The fees required under § 1.17, and any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief and fees therefor, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

This brief contains these items under the following headings, and in the order set forth below (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(i)):

- I REAL PARTY IN INTEREST
- II RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES
- III STATUS OF CLAIMS
- IV STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

07/19/2005 CCHAU1 00000044 090466 10662111

01 FC:1402 500.00 DA

Appeal Brief--page 1 of 22

- V SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER
- VI GROUNDS OF REJECTION PRESENTED FOR REVIEW
- VII ARGUMENTS
- VIII APPENDIX OF CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL
- IX APPENDIX LISTING ANY EVIDENCE RELIED ON BY THE APPELLANT IN
THE APPEAL

The final page of this brief bears the practitioner's signature.

I REAL PARTY IN INTEREST (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(i))

The real party in interest in this appeal is International Business Machines Corporation.

II RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c) (1)(ii))

With respect to other prior or pending appeals, interferences, or related judicial proceedings that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal, there is no such prior or pending appeals, interferences, or related judicial proceedings.

Since no such proceedings exist, no Related Proceedings Appendix is appended hereto.

III STATUS OF CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c) (1)(iii))

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

Claims in the application are: 1-37

B. STATUS OF ALL THE CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

1. Claims withdrawn from consideration: 1-26
2. Claims pending: 27-37
3. Claims allowed: None
4. Claims rejected: 27-37

C. CLAIMS ON APPEAL

The claims on appeal are: 27-37

See additional status information in the Appendix of Claims.

IV STATUS OF AMENDMENTS (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(iv))

As to the status of any amendment filed subsequent to final rejection, only claim 31 was amended after final rejection. Claim 31 as amended was not considered by the Examiner after the final rejection.

V SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v))

With respect to a summary of independent Claims 27 and 37, as shown in Figure 1 and, a cable having a flexible sheath (104) is shown. *See* p. 7, lines 8-9. Multiple conductors (102) are embedded in the sheath. *See* p. 7, lines 9-10. As shown, in Figures 2 and 4A-B, first and second electrical contacts (108, 402/408) are coupled to each conductor, and are present on opposite sides of the sheath. *See* p. 9, line 20 to p. 10, line 1. As noted at p. 7, lines 19-22, and inherent in Figure 3, the cable also has a third electrical contact, positioned towards the second end of the cable. Also note that the contacts to/of the conductor can be positioned anywhere on the cable. As illustrated in Figures 2 and 4A-6C, the first and second conductors are positioned towards the first end (106) of the sheath, but do not extend beyond the first end of the sheath. Figure 3 shows the cable coupled to an electronic component (302). *See* p. 8, line 17.

**VI GROUNDS OF REJECTION PRESENTED FOR REVIEW (37 C.F.R. §
41.37(c)(1)(vi))**

Following, under each issue listed, is a concise statement setting forth the corresponding ground of rejection.

Issue # 1: Claims 27-32, 34, 35 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maeda (6,020,559).

Issue # 2: Claims 33 and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda (6,020,559).

IBM1P040/SJO9-2003-0032US1

Appeal Brief--page 8 of 22

VII ARGUMENTS (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(vii))

The claims of the groups noted below do not stand or fall together. In the present section, appellant explains why the claims of each group are believed to be separately patentable.

Issue #1:

Issue # 1: Claims 27-32, 34, 35 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maeda (6,020,559) [hereinafter "Maeda"].

Group #1: Claims 27, 28, 31-32, 34, 35 and 37

Claim 27, 28, 31-32, 34, 35 and 37 require that the first and second electrical contacts be positioned 1) on the same conductor, 2) towards the same end of the cable, and 3) yet are positioned on opposite sides of the cable. As discussed in detail in the specification, the presence of multiple contacts on the same conductor and positioned towards one end of the cable results in much improved reliability, both during testing and in the final product in which the cable is implemented. *See*, for example, p. 4, lines 12-14 and p. 8, line 22 to p. 9, line 4.

In contrast, Maeda fails to disclose multiple contacts on the same conductor, where the contacts are positioned towards the same end, and also positioned on opposite sides of the sheath. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.* 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In the final office action, the Examiner rejected claims 27 and 37, indicating that Maeda discloses these features, without indicating where in Maeda such features are disclosed or inherently present.

Applicant concedes that Maeda indicates that the access holes 50 can be positioned on opposite sides of the cable, per Maeda col. 3, lines 43-45. However, this does not imply that multiple electrical contacts on the same conductor be positioned on opposite sides of the cable. Rather, this seems to imply that the holes 50 can be positioned on the bottom of the cable rather than the top. In other words, Maeda's holes are either through the top film or the bottom film, but not both as required by claim 27. A specific instance of this is shown by comparing Maeda's Figures 11 and 13. In Figure 11, the protruding solder contacts 54 and the conductor 20 at the other end 26 of the cable are all on top. In Figure 13, the protruding solder contacts 54 are on top while the conductor 20 at the opposite end 74 of the cable is at the bottom.

Therefore, it is Applicant's contention that not all claimed elements are overtly disclosed in Maeda. Accordingly, because all features of claims 27 and 37 are not present in Maeda, it appears that the Examiner is asserting that the features are inherently present. However, the fact that a certain result or characteristic may occur or be present in the prior art is not sufficient to establish the inherency of that result or characteristic. *In re Rijckaert*, 9 F.3d 1531, 1534, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1957 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Oelrich*, 666 F.2d 578, 581-82, 212 USPQ 323, 326 (CCPA 1981). Rather, to establish inherency, the extrinsic evidence 'must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing described in the reference, and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill. Inherency, however, may not be established by probabilities or possibilities. The mere fact that a certain thing may result from a given set of circumstances is not sufficient.' *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 USPQ2d 1949, 1950-51 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (citations omitted). In relying upon the theory of inherency, the examiner must provide a basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily flows from the teachings of the applied prior art." *Ex parte Levy*, 17 USPQ2d 1461, 1464 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990) (emphasis in original).

Applying these rules to the present application, the lack of any indication of how the claimed features not literally disclosed in Maeda are inherently present renders the rejection of claims 27 and 37 inappropriate.

Because Maeda fails to disclose or inherently contain each and every limitation required by claims 27, 28, 31-32, 34, 35 and 37, and because the rejection fails to provide a basis for inclusion of inherent features in the rejection, the rejection of claims 27, 28, 31-32, 34, 35 and 37 is improper.

Group #2: Claim 29

Claim 29 requires that the electrical contacts be positioned directly opposite each other, as shown in Figures 2 and 4A-5B. Nowhere does Maeda disclose this configuration. To that end, the rejection fails to indicate where Maeda discloses this limitation.

It is Applicant's contention that this feature is neither disclosed in Maeda, nor inherently present. Applicant reiterates the arguments in the section above for Group #1 that Maeda fails to disclose contacts positioned on both sides of the cable towards the same end of the cable. Because all features of claim 29 are not present in Maeda and have not been identified by location in Maeda, it appears that the Examiner is asserting that the features are inherently present. However, the fact that a certain result or characteristic may occur or be present in the prior art is not sufficient to establish the inherency of that result or characteristic. *In re Rijckaert*, 9 F.3d 1531, 1534, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1957 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Oelrich*, 666 F.2d 578, 581-82, 212 USPQ 323, 326 (CCPA 1981). Rather, to establish inherency, the extrinsic evidence 'must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing described in the reference, and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill. Inherency, however, may not be established by probabilities or possibilities. The mere fact that a certain thing may result from a given set of circumstances is not sufficient.' *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 USPQ2d 1949, 1950-51 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (citations omitted). In relying upon the theory of inherency, the examiner must provide a basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily flows from the teachings of

the applied prior art.” *Ex parte Levy*, 17 USPQ2d 1461, 1464 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990) (emphasis in original).

Applying these rules to the present application, the lack of any indication of how the claimed features not literally disclosed in Maeda are inherently present renders the rejection of claim 29 inappropriate.

As further evidence that the claimed feature that the electrical contacts are positioned directly opposite each other is not inherent in Maeda, as described in Maeda at col. 3, lines 31-34, adjacent holes in Maeda’s cable are offset or shifted so that no two adjacent holes are transversely overlapped or aligned. See also the following excerpt from col. 4, lines 5-17 of Maeda:

Referring now to FIGS. 10 and 11, an embodiment is shown in which at end 30, round holes 54 are formed in the film 52 and are arranged in a spatial pattern with no two adjacent or successive holes being aligned transversely. In some cases, two holes appear for selected conductors, but the two holes are spaced apart longitudinally a distance equal to the diameter of a hole plus the requisite clearance to avoid transverse alignment or overlap. In the hole array depicted, four columns C₁-C₄ of holes are provided to obtain the requisite spacing both transversely and longitudinally. The end 26 is finished as in the previous embodiment except that the exposed conductors are facing up like the solder filled holes at end 30. (*emphasis added*)

Because any adjacent holes in Maeda’s cable cannot be aligned, electrical contacts positioned directly opposite each other cannot be inherently present, as required by claim 29. So not only does Maeda fail to disclose each and every element of claim 29, Maeda’s disclosure forecloses any inherent feature that would anticipate claim 29.

Because Maeda fails to disclose or inherently contain each and every limitation required by claim 29, and because the rejection fails to provide a basis for inclusion of inherent features in the rejection, the rejection of claim 29 is improper.

Group #3: Claim 30

Claim 30, which depends from claim 28, further requires that the exposed portions of the conductor are substantially coplanar with the outer surface of the sheath, as shown in Figures 4B, 5B. Using exposed conductor as the contacts makes the cable less expensive to fabricate, as addition of contact pads is not needed. Further, errors that could occur during addition of pads are eliminated.

In contrast, none of Maeda's conductors have contact portions meeting all of the requirements of base claims 27 and 28, and that are also coplanar with the outer surface of the sheath. Rather, Maeda's conductor 20 is coplanar with the interior of the sheath. In fact, solder 54 must be added in order to create a conductive path towards the outside of the sheath. Further, it cannot be said that Maeda suggests extension of the conductor through the holes 50, as Maeda's solder actually protrudes from the upper surface of the sheath. Note Maeda Figures 2, 5-8, 11, 13. This protrusion is not substantially planar with the outer surface of the sheath, as shown in Applicant's Figures 4B, 5B.

It is Applicant's contention that this feature is neither disclosed in Maeda, nor inherently present. Applicant reiterates the arguments in the section above for Group #1 that Maeda fails to disclose contacts positioned on both sides of the cable towards the same end of the cable. Because all features of claim 30 are not present in Maeda and have not been identified by location in Maeda, it appears that the Examiner is asserting that the features are inherently present. However, the fact that a certain result or characteristic may occur or be present in the prior art is not sufficient to establish the inherency of that result or characteristic. *In re Rijckaert*, 9 F.3d 1531, 1534, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1957 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Oelrich*, 666 F.2d 578, 581-82, 212 USPQ 323, 326 (CCPA 1981). Rather, to establish inherency, the extrinsic evidence 'must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing described in the reference, and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill. Inherency, however, may not be established by probabilities or possibilities. The mere fact that a certain thing may result from a given set of circumstances is not sufficient.' *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 USPQ2d 1949, 1950-51 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (citations omitted). In relying upon the theory of inherency, the examiner must provide a basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily flows from the teachings of

the applied prior art.” *Ex parte Levy*, 17 USPQ2d 1461, 1464 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990) (emphasis in original).

Applying these rules to the present application, the lack of any indication of how the claimed features not literally disclosed in Maeda are inherently present renders the rejection of claim 30 inappropriate.

Because Maeda fails to disclose or inherently contain each and every limitation required by claim 30, and because the rejection fails to provide a basis for inclusion of inherent features in the rejection, the rejection of claim 30 is improper.

Issue #2:

Claims 33 and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda (6,020,559).

Group #1: Claims 33 and 36

Claim 33 is deemed allowable for the reasons set forth hereinabove with respect to its parent claim, claim 27.

Claim 36 is deemed allowable for the reasons set forth hereinabove with respect to its parent claim, claim 37.

In view of the remarks set forth hereinabove, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable, along with any claims depending therefrom.

VIII APPENDIX OF CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(viii))

The text of the claims involved in the appeal (along with associated status information) is set forth below:

1. (WITHDRAWN) A method for testing an electrical connection to a flat cable, comprising:
creating a first electrical coupling between a conductor of a flat cable and a test system, wherein a second portion of the flat cable is electrically coupled to an electronic component, the conductor being in electrical communication with the component; introducing an electrical charge from the test system to the first electrical coupling for testing an electrical connection of the conductor to the component; creating a second electrical coupling between the conductor and the test system; introducing an electrical charge from the test system to the first electrical coupling; and determining a resistance across the first and second electrical couplings.
2. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned on opposite sides of the flat cable.
3. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned directly opposite each other relative to the flat cable.
4. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned on a same side of the flat cable.
5. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned within less than about 5 mm from each other.
6. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned within less than about 3 mm from each other.

7. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second electrical couplings includes a biased contact pin.
8. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second electrical couplings includes a biased contact member having a generally arcuate cross section.
9. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising determining whether the resistance across the first and second couplings is above a predetermined amount.
10. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the flat cable has multiple conductors, wherein multiple couplings are created between each of the conductors and the test system.
11. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising determining a resistance across each of the couplings.
12. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising determining a resistance across only selected couplings, wherein the selected couplings are chosen based on a result of the testing of the electrical connection of the conductor to the component.
13. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are created by connecting a quick connect type connector to the test system.
14. (WITHDRAWN) A method for testing an electrical connection to a flat cable, comprising:
creating a first electrical coupling between a conductor of a flat cable and a test system;
creating a second electrical coupling between the conductor and the test system;
introducing an electrical charge from the test system to the first electrical coupling; and

determining a resistance across the first and second electrical couplings.

15. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned on opposite sides of the flat cable.
16. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned directly opposite each other relative to the flat cable.
17. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned on a same side of the flat cable.
18. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned within less than about 5 mm from each other.
19. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are positioned within less than about 3 mm from each other.
20. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein at least one of the first and second electrical couplings includes a biased, elongate, contact pin.
21. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein at least one of the first and second electrical couplings includes a biased contact member having a generally arcuate cross section.
22. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the flat cable has multiple conductors, wherein multiple couplings are created between each of the conductors and the test system.
23. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising determining a resistance across each of the couplings.

24. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 22, further comprising determining a resistance across only selected couplings, wherein the selected couplings are chosen based on a result of the testing of the electrical connection of the conductor to the component.
25. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising connecting an electronic component to the flat cable, the conductor being in electrical communication with the component; and introducing an electrical charge from the test system to the first electrical connection for testing an electrical connection of the conductor to the component.
26. (WITHDRAWN) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the first and second electrical couplings are created by connecting a quick connect type connector to the test system.
27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An electrical cable, comprising:
a flexible sheath having first and second ends;
multiple conductors embedded in the sheath;
for each conductor, first and second electrical contacts in communication with the conductor; and
for each conductor, a third electrical contact in communication with the conductor;
wherein the first and second electrical contacts are positioned on opposite sides of the sheath,
wherein the first and second electrical contacts are positioned towards the first end of the sheath but do not extend beyond the first end of the sheath,
wherein the third electrical contact is positioned towards the second end of the sheath.
28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cable as recited in claim 27, wherein the first and second electrical contacts are portions of the conductors exposed through the sheath.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cable as recited in claim 27, wherein the first and second electrical contacts are positioned directly opposite each other relative to the sheath.
30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cable as recited in claim 28, wherein the first and second electrical contacts are substantially coplanar with an outer surface of the sheath.
31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cable as recited in claim 27, wherein the first and second electrical contacts for each conductor are aligned along a common plane oriented perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the sheath.
32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cable as recited in claim 36, wherein the first and second electrical contacts are adapted for compression coupling.
33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The cable as recited in claim 27 wherein the first and second electrical contacts are offset from each other.
34. (ORIGINAL) The cable as recited in claim 27, wherein at least one of the first and second electrical contacts is adapted for contact by a biased, elongate, contact pin.
35. (ORIGINAL) The cable as recited in claim 27, wherein at least one of the first and second electrical contacts is adapted for contact by a biased contact member having a generally arcuate cross section.
36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 37, wherein the first and second electrical contacts are connection elements of quick connect type connectors.
37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An electronic device, comprising:
a cable comprising:
a flexible sheath having first and second ends;
multiple conductors embedded in the sheath;


for each conductor, first and second electrical contacts in communication with the
conductor;
for each conductor, a third electrical contact in communication with the
conductor;
wherein the first and second electrical contacts are positioned on opposite sides of
the sheath,
wherein the first and second electrical contacts are positioned towards the first
end of the sheath,
wherein the third electrical contact is positioned towards the second end of the
sheath; and
a component coupled to the third electrical contacts.

**IX APPENDIX LISTING ANY EVIDENCE RELIED ON BY THE APPELLANT IN THE
APPEAL (37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(ix))**

There is no such evidence.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 971-2573. For payment of any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0466 (Order No. SJO9-2003-0032US1).

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Dominic M. Kotab
Reg. No. 42,762

Date: 7/18/05

Zilka-Kotab, PC
P.O. Box 721120
San Jose, California 95172-1120
Telephone: (408) 971-2573
Facsimile: (408) 971-4660